

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following listing, if entered, replaces all prior versions of the claims in the present application.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method comprising:
receiving invoice adjustment information in an application-specific data object format from each of a plurality of processing systems, wherein each processing system comprises an application, the invoice adjustment information is received at a transport layer, and the invoice adjustment information comprises
 - an identification data element;
 - invoice adjustment base data element;
 - a billing data element;
 - a status data element; and
 - a list of invoice adjustment line item details data element;receiving configuration information relating to the processing systems at the transport layer, wherein the configuration information is received via an adapter; and translating the invoice adjustment information into a common invoice adjustment data object format, wherein
 - the translating is performed by a processor, and
 - the translating comprises:
 - accessing a first storing unit configured to store transformation information, wherein the first storing unit is coupled to the processor,
 - accessing a second storing unit ~~configured to store defined business processes~~, wherein **the second storing unit stores at least one business process, and**

the second storing unit is coupled to the processor,
~~using a business process controller configured to~~
~~execute the business processes, wherein the~~
~~execution is executing the at least one business~~
~~process~~ in response to a predefined event{[s]}, and
 the common invoice adjustment data object format comprises
at least one relationship data element, wherein
the relationship data element specifies at least
one relationship between a plurality of
entities, and
 at least one custom data element, wherein and
 the custom data element ~~is configured to allow~~
facilitates customization of the common
 invoice adjustment data object format.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 inter-exchanging invoice adjustment information in the common invoice
 adjustment data object format between two or more of the plurality of
 processing systems.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1 further comprising:
 translating invoice adjustment information in the common invoice
 adjustment data object format to an application-specific data object
 format for use by a respective application.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the common invoice adjustment data
 object format uses an extensible markup language format.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 further comprising the precedent operations of:

determining essential data elements of a common invoice adjustment data object format; and
 creating a common invoice adjustment data object format including at least the essential data elements.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the essential data elements are determined based upon elements of a plurality of application-specific data object formats.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the essential data elements include an identification data element, invoice adjustment base data element, a billing data element, a status data element, and a list of invoice adjustment line item details data element.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the common invoice adjustment data object format includes at least one complex data element.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the common invoice adjustment data object format includes one or more related data elements selected from the group consisting of a related party data element, a related employee data element, a related invoice data element, and a related comments data element.

10. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a processor; and
a machine-readable medium configured to be accessed by the processor, wherein
the machine-readable medium has having stored thereon therein a data structure, wherein the data structure
uses is defined in an extensible markup language format,
 is configured to ~~be used in~~ facilitate translating invoice adjustment information into a common invoice adjustment data object format, and comprises:
at least one relationship data element, wherein

**the relationship data element specifies at least one relationship
between a plurality of entities;**

at least one custom data element configured to ~~allow~~ **facilitate**
customization of the common invoice adjustment data object
format;
an identification data element;
invoice adjustment base data element;
a billing data element;
a status data element; and
a list of invoice adjustment line item details data element.

11. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the data structure further comprises:

at least one complex data element.

12. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the data structure further comprises:

one or more related data elements selected from the group consisting of a related party data element, a related employee data element, a related invoice data element, and a related comments data element.

13. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium that provides executable instructions, which, when executed by a computing system, cause the computing system to perform a method comprising:

receiving invoice adjustment information in an application-specific data object format from each of a plurality of processing systems, wherein each processing system comprises an application, and wherein the invoice adjustment information is received at a transport layer;

receiving configuration information relating to the processing systems at the
 transport layer, wherein the configuration information is configured to be
 received via an adapter; and
 translating the invoice adjustment information into a common invoice adjustment
 data object format, wherein
 the translating comprises
 accessing a first storing unit configured to store transformation
 information,
 accessing a second storing unit ~~configured to store defined~~
 ~~business processes~~, wherein
 the second storing unit stores at least one business
 process, and
 ~~using a business process controller configured to execute the~~
 ~~business processes, wherein the execution is executing~~
 the business process in response to a predefined
 event[[s]], and
 the common invoice adjustment data object format comprises
 at least one relationship data element, wherein
 the relationship data element specifies at least one
 relationship between a plurality of entities,
 at least one custom data element, wherein
 the custom data element ~~is configured to allow~~ facilitates
 customization of the common invoice adjustment
 data object format,
 an identification data element,
 invoice adjustment base data element,
 a billing data element,
 a status data element, and
 a list of invoice adjustment line item details data element.

14. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the method further comprises:
- inter-exchanging invoice adjustment information in the common invoice adjustment data object format between two or more of the plurality of processing systems.
15. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim ~~[[14]]~~ 13 wherein the method further comprises:
- translating invoice adjustment information in the common invoice adjustment data object to an application-specific data object format for use by a respective application.
16. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 15 wherein the common invoice adjustment data object format uses an extensible markup language format.
17. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 16 wherein the method further comprises the precedent operations of:
- determining essential data elements of a common invoice adjustment data object format; and
 - creating a common invoice adjustment data object format including at least the essential data elements.
18. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 17 wherein the essential data elements are determined based upon elements of a plurality of application-specific data object formats.
19. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the essential data elements include an identification data element, invoice adjustment base data element, a billing data element, a status data element, and a list of invoice adjustment line item details data element.

20. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 19 wherein the common invoice adjustment data object format includes at least one complex data element.
21. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 20 wherein the common invoice adjustment data object format includes one or more related data elements selected from the group consisting of a related party data element, a related employee data element, a related invoice data element, and a related comments data element.
22. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a plurality of processing systems, wherein each processing system
comprises at least one application that processes invoice adjustment
information, the invoice adjustment information having an
application-specific data object format, and
is coupled to an adapter, wherein the adapter is configured to receive
configuration information from the processing system; and
an integration server coupled to each of the plurality of processing systems,
wherein
the integration server translates invoice adjustment information from an
application specific data object format to a common invoice
adjustment data object format, wherein
the common invoice adjustment data object format comprises
at least one relationship data element, wherein
the relationship data element specifies at least
one relationship between a plurality of
entities,
at least one custom data element, wherein
the custom data element ~~is configured to allow~~
facilitates customization of the common
invoice adjustment data object format,

- an identification data element,
- invoice adjustment base data element,
- a billing data element,
- a status data element, and
- a list of invoice adjustment line item details data element; and

the integration server comprises:

- a transport layer configured to receive invoice adjustment information;
- a first storing unit configured to store transformation information;
- a second storing unit configured to store defined business processes; and
- a business process controller configured to execute the business processes, wherein the execution is in response to predefined events.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein invoice adjustment information in the common invoice adjustment data object format is inter-exchanged between two or more processing systems.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein the common invoice adjustment data object format uses an extensible markup language format.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein the common invoice adjustment data object format includes a set of essential data elements, the set of essential data elements are determined based upon elements of a plurality of application-specific data object formats.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein the set of essential data elements includes an identification data element, invoice adjustment base data element, a billing

data element, a status data element, and a list of invoice adjustment line item details data element.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26 wherein the common invoice adjustment data object format includes at least one complex data element.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the common invoice adjustment data object format includes one or more related data elements selected from the group consisting of a related party data element, a related employee data element, a related invoice data element, and a related comments data element.

29. (New) The method of claim 5 further comprising:
specifying a level of compatibility with a data object format of a first application,
wherein
the determining the essential data elements facilitates achieving the specified level
of compatibility.